

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

ON THE WINTERING OF THE WIGEON *ANAS PENELOPE* IN THE KENYA HIGHLANDS Backhurst, Britton & Mann (1973) listed only ten records of the Wigeon in Kenya although better coverage of several highland lakes in central Kenya in more recent years clearly indicates that the species is an annual visitor. Lake Naivasha at 1888 m a.s.l., for example, has been visited by this species during the past three northern winters, albeit in very small numbers (<10). During my November 1978 duck count on the lake a total of 133 Wigeon was seen (in two flocks of 110 and 23); this is quite an unprecedented number for a locality south of the equator. Some information on feeding behaviour was also obtained and this suggests that Wigeon on the lake may be relying on a single species of macrophyte for food.

In January 1978 I watched a male Wigeon on Lake Naivasha feeding in association with Red-knobbed Coots *Fulica cristata* which were bringing up pieces of *Ceratophyllum demersum* to the surface. All the ducks observed on 30 November 1978 were feeding together in compact flocks in shallow water (approximately 2 m deep) in the open part of the lake immediately south of the papyrus swamp at the entrance of the main influent (River Malawa). In this zone extensive beds of *C. demersum* were growing and many plants almost reached the surface, as the water of the lake (which has relatively low algal productivity) is low in turbidity during most of the year. The Wigeon were grazing on the weed under the water by immersing head and neck. There were no other Palaearctic duck species with the Wigeon. However, about ½ km away from this concentration of over 100 Wigeon were c. 1000 Red-knobbed Coots, but there was no feeding association being established on this occasion. Interestingly, *Ceratophyllum* is not listed as a food item by Cramp & Simmons (1977) nor by Bauer & Glutz von Blotzheim (1968).

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TWO RECORDS OF KNOT *CALIDRIS CANUTUS* FROM THE KENYAN COAST Backhurst, Britton & Mann (1973) consider that the Knot is a very rare vagrant to the East African coast, and give only two recent records, those of Fogden (1963) and Harvey (1971). Two additional records are detailed below.

In September 1977 I spent some time observing the shorebirds on the Kenyan coast in the Malindi area. In the early afternoon of 21 September I found a single Knot in winter plumage alongside Curlew Sandpipers *Calidris ferruginea* at the edge of a pool near the mouth of the Sabaki River. The bird was noticeably larger than the Curlew Sandpipers but somewhat smaller than a nearby Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, and was

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